

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND ACTIVITIES
RECEIVING FEDERAL AND STATE
FUNDS

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The following information contains a brief summary of the organizations established through Acts of Congress or receiving funds appropriated by Congress which are immediately connected with rural educational activities.

Field representatives will discover these various organizations active among farmers in all states. Proper alignment of these activities with REA can be of great value to the dissemination of practical and semi-technical information through the paid leaders and volunteer workers in every community.

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MORRILL LAND-GRANT ACT OF 1862 - July 2, 1862

AN ACT donating public lands to the several states and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts.

The Act of Congress of July 2, 1862, known as the first Morrill Act, granted to each state 30,000 acres of public land for each senator and representative in Congress to which the State was entitled by apportionment under the census of 1860; all money derived from the sale of these lands was to be invested by the State in securities bearing interest at not less than 5 percent, excepting that the legislature of the State might authorize the use of not more than 10 percent of the capital of the purchase of sites for the college or experimental farms. The interest was to be used for the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object should be to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.

The original Act was amended three times. The amendments of April 14, 1864, and July 23, 1866, extended to July 23, 1871, the time in which the States could accept the provisions of the original Act. The third amendment, March 3, 1883, permitted the investment of the capital derived from the sale of lands in a greater variety of stocks and bonds than was permitted in the original Act.

OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS - Functions, 1888 -- Approp. Act July 5, 1892

The functions of this Office date back to 1888. The Office of Experiment Stations is first referred to in the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1893, approved July 5, 1892 (27 Stat. 74). Superseded by the States Relations Service from 1915 to 1923, the Office was re-established in the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1924, approved February 26, 1923 (42 Stat. 1289), and Secretary's Memorandum 436, effective July 1, 1923.

The Office of Experiment Stations administers Federal funds, provided by the Hatch, Adams, Purnell, and supplementary acts, and Title I of the Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935, for the support of research in agriculture, the rural home, and rural life by experiment stations in the several states and in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Administration of the acts granting funds to States and Territories involves supervision of the funds, close advisory relations with the stations as to research for which the funds are expended, annual examination in the field of the work and expenditures of each station, assistance to the State stations in working out programs for cooperative efforts to avoid duplication and provide needed integration, assistance to Federal Agencies in working out cooperation with the States, and

preparation of the annual report to Congress on the work and expenditures of the stations, as required by law. The federal funds paid to the States and Territories are largely expended on research projects submitted to the Office of Experiment Stations for advisory suggestions and approval in advance of expenditures.

As a part of its legal responsibility of furnishing advice and assistance to the stations, the Office serves as a clearinghouse for information and service. Information on subjects of current importance is assembled and made available from time to time. A current review of progress and results of agricultural and rural life research is published in Experiment Station Record. Complete coverage is maintained of publications of research interest issued by the State agricultural experiment stations and the Department, and of the research contributions of their staffs appearing in scientific journals. Attention is also given to publications of direct interest to American workers in agriculture and home economics appearing in foreign publications, including especially publications from Latin America.

EXTENSION SERVICE - Smith-Lever Act - 1914

Cooperative extension work has been an integral part of the Departmental Activity since 1914 when the Smith-Lever Act became law. Since the original measure was passed, there have been four Acts based on the general provisions of the Smith-Lever Act:

- The Capper-Ketcham Act of May 22, 1928;
- The Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935;
- The Additional Extension Act of April 24, 1939;
- The Bankhead-Flannagan Act of June 6, 1945

Extension work is cooperative in that the Department and the Land-Grant Colleges in the 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico agree on extension plans of work under which beyond-the-classroom educational programs are carried on in rural communities.

During the war the Extension Service was made a part of the War Foods Administration to carry on educational programs for the encouragement of greater food production. On June 29, 1945, when the War Foods Administration was discontinued, the Extension Service reverted to its previous role of Staff Agency, continuing in its responsibility for all general educational programs of the Department. One of the important war-time responsibilities provided for by congressional action was that of intra-State recruitment and placement of farm labor with respect to which the Extension Service cooperated closely with the Office of Labor of the Department. This work is continuing in 1946.

Provision for the Extension Service in the Department was made in the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1924, approved February 26, 1923 (42 Stat. 1289), and Secretary's Memorandum 436, effective July 1, 1923. The Departmental Office is composed of Administrative and Professional personnel serving as the liaison between departmental research and action agencies and the administrative and extension subject-matter staffs at the respective land-grant colleges. County agricultural, home demonstration, and 4-H Club agents are located in nearly all the agricultural counties of the United States. These county agents make available to farmers, farm homemakers and rural youth the results of research conducted by the Department of Agriculture, the land-grant institutions, and other research agencies, adapted to local farm and home conditions. The Extension Service is also looked to for leadership in all general educational programs of the Department for the various action and credit agencies. In the counties, county extension agents take the lead in organizing their counties for county program making in which farm families, technicians, and administrative workers plan together to combine scientific information, local experience, and Government aids into local programs for the common good.

FEDERAL BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Office of Education)
February 23, 1917

The Federal Board for Vocational Education was created by the Smith-Hughes Act of February 23, 1917 (39 Stat. 929; 20 U.S.C. 11-28). This Act makes continuing appropriations to be expended in the States under State plans for the promotion of vocational education. The work has been expanded and appropriations increased through the George-Reed Act, the George-Ellzey Act, and the George-Deen Act.

Under Executive Order 6166 of June 10, 1933, the functions of the Federal Board for Vocational Education were transferred to the Department of the Interior. These functions were assigned to the Commissioner of Education on October 10, 1933.

The United States Office of Education, with all its functions, was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Federal Security Agency, effective July 1, 1939, in accordance with the provisions of the President's Reorganization Plan I.

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE?

Vocational Education in Agriculture is a nation-wide, federally aided program of systematic instruction in agriculture and farm mechanics of less than college grade, conducted in public schools or classes for those persons over 14 years of age, "who have entered upon or who are preparing to enter upon the work of the farm or of the farm home," under a plan of cooperation between State Boards for vocational education and the United States Office of Education.

This systematic instruction in agriculture, under the terms of the National Vocational Education Acts, shall in every case "provide for directed or supervised practice in agriculture, either on a farm provided for by the school or other farm, for at least six months per year." Instruction is given by teachers who are agricultural college graduates employed on a 12-month basis to follow up their instruction throughout the year by supervising the farming operations of their students on their home farms.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA ORGANIZATION?

The Future Farmers of America is the national organization of, by, and for farm boys studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools which operate under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. It is an educational, non-profit, non-political farm youth organization of voluntary membership, designed to develop agricultural leadership, character, thrift, scholarship, cooperation, citizenship and patriotism. Its members learn through participating experiences how to conduct and take part in public meetings, to speak in public, to buy and sell cooperatively, and to assume civic responsibility. The F.F.A. is an intra-curricular part of vocational education in agriculture in the public school system of America. It constitutes one of the most effective devices for teaching through participating experiences. The average age of F.F.A. members is approximately 17 years.

WHAT IS THE NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA ORGANIZATION?

The New Farmers of America is a national organization of negro farm boys who are studying vocational agriculture in the public secondary schools which operate under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts in those States where separate schools are maintained for negroes. This organization is similar to the Future Farmers of America.

- May 18, 1933

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporation created by Act of Congress May 18, 1933 (48 Stat.58; 16 U.S.C. 831-831dd). The statute directs the corporation to take custody of the Wilson Dam and appurtenant plants at Muscle Shoals, Ala., and to operate them in the interest of national defense and for development of new types of fertilizers for use in agricultural programs....The statute further provides for development of the Tennessee River and its tributaries in the interest of navigation, the control of floods, and the generation and disposition of hydroelectric power.

....The statute creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.... imposes upon that agency the duty of bringing about an adequate and complete development of the (Tennessee) river system through the construction of a series of dams upon the main stream and its principal tributaries. The relationship of the serious flood problem on the Tennessee River to that of the Mississippi was such that Congress directed the corporation to provide its projects with flood-control storage to alleviate these conditions. Closely related is a program of water control and conservation in the water-shed of the Tennessee Valley, of which fertilizer research is carried on at the plants at Muscle Shoals.

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The corporation's power producing system has an installed capacity of more than 2,500,000 kilowatts. TVA also directs the operation of eight hydroelectric plants in the Tennessee Valley, owned by the Aluminum Company of America, having a total installed capacity of 311,120 kilowatts.

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Under the statute, the authority is charged with the disposition of surplus power. This power is to be sold in such a way as to promote the widest possible use of electricity and assist in liquidating the cost of the project. The statute prescribes that preference be given to cooperative associations and municipalities in the disposition of power. Power is sold to industrial customers for purposes of establishing a high load factor, aiding in the development of the resources of the region, and providing a market for secondary power which otherwise would be wasted.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

August 28, 1934

The Agricultural Research Center was created by Secretary's Memorandum 648, dated August 28, 1934. It was transferred to the Agricultural Research Administration under Secretary's Memorandum 986, dated February 25, 1942, pursuant to Executive Order 9069, dated February 23, 1942

The functions of the Research Center are to provide over-all operating services and related management necessary to the efficient conduct of the work performed at the Center by the various research agencies of the Department.

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION - April 8, 1935

Pursuant to the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, approved April 8, 1935, (49 Stat.115), Executive Order 7027, as of April 30, 1935, as amended, created the Resettlement Administration. That agency was transferred to the Department of Agriculture by Executive Order 7530, of December 31, 1936, as amended, and its name was changed to the Farm Security Administration by Secretary's Memorandum 732, of Sept. 1, 1937.

Rural Rehabilitation. -- Nearly 900,000 farm families who lacked other sources of adequate credit have been aided by loans to purchase machinery, equipment, livestock, seed, feed, fertilizer, and other farm and home supplies they needed to make a living and to increase the essential production of food and fiber. Among the present borrowers are more than 5,300 veterans of World War II. The loans are made for periods up to 5 years at an interest rate of 5 percent.

Loans are accompanied by technical guidance from supervisors trained in farm and home management, who help the families carry out farm and home plans providing for increased production of essential crops and livestock, food for home use, feed for livestock, diversification of farm enterprises, and crop rotation and soil conservation practices.

Small loans also are made to low-income farmers for the group purchase and use of farm machinery and purebred sires, which none can afford to own individually.

Water facilities. -- Under the Water Facilities Act of 1937, as amended (16 U.S.C. 590r-590x, 5902-5), the Farm Security Administration makes loans and supplies technical assistance to farmers and ranchers in the 17 western States for the construction or repair of water facilities, such as ponds, windmills, pumps, storage tanks, and irrigation ditches, which they need in order to make better use of their land resources. More than 11,000 farmers have improved their farming operations through this service.

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION (Dept. of Interior) August 20, 1937

The Bonneville Power Administration was created by Act of Congress approved August 20, 1937 (50 Stat.731; 16 U.S.C. 832), to market power generated at the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.

It is directed by statute to encourage the widest possible use of electric energy and to provide market outlets therefor by constructing, operating, maintaining, and improving such electric transmission lines and substations as may be necessary.

The Administration is the marketing agency for the energy generated at the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington.

It has also been designated the marketing agency for energy generated at the Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork of the Flathead River in western Montana which will be constructed and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation; the Lookout Point, Quartz Creek, and Detroit projects authorized for construction on the Willamette River in Oregon by the Flood Control Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat.902); and the projects authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 2, 1945 (59 Stat.10), including McNary Dam on the Columbia River at Umatilla, Oregon, and a series of dams to be constructed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers on the Lower Snake River in Idaho.

The Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams are operated, respectively, by the United States Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. Power generated at the dams is sold by the Administration over a network of high voltage transmission lines in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Availability of large quantities of power from the Bonneville and Grand Coulee plants was an important factor in development of vital war industries in the Pacific Northwest, including the Hanford Atomic Bomb Plant and one-third of the nation's aluminum capacity.

The Bonneville power plant was completed in December, 1943, with installation of the tenth generator, bringing total rated capacity to 518,400 kilowatts. At Grand Coulee six 108,000 kw units are in operation. The Grand Coulee and Bonneville power plants are capable of expansion to an aggregate installed capacity in excess of two and one-half million kilowatts.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION -- February 23, 1942

Agricultural Research Administration, established by Executive Order 9069, of February 23, 1942, comprises the
Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry;
Animal Industry;
Dairy Industry;
Entomology and Plant Quarantine;
Human Nutrition and Home Economics;
Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering;
Office of Experiment Stations;
Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md.

The Administration is responsible for the planning and coordination of the programs of the four regional research laboratories authorized by Section 202 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 USC 1281); for the administration of the Special Research Fund, Department of Agriculture, provided by the Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935 (49 Stat.437; 7 U.S.C. 427b); and for the general planning and coordination of the research and regulatory activities of all of the agencies in the Administration. The Administrator is also authorized and directed to advise the Heads of other Department agencies regarding research plans and programs and to make reports and recommendations thereon to the Secretary.

